

**First United Methodist Church of Orange**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**Meeting of May 17, 2018**

Attendants: John Warren, Carol Allen, Sherri Fruge', Chris Abshire, Theresa Beauchamp, Gary Bonneaux, Barbara Dardeau, Tom Henry, Suzanne Magee, Betty Merchant, Ginger Williams.

Absent: David Bridges, Greg Defrates

Carol Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and John Warren began the meeting with a prayer and a devotional.

Angela Abshire addressed the council and presented information on her concerns and ideas for several areas including the preparation and format of the Town Hall meetings, communication issues in the Church and questions on whether the Council is an administrative lead or involved in oversight of programs. Discussion was held on all areas with ideas for improvement. Clarification was made on the administrative focus of the council and the Council agreed that improvement in program oversight was needed.

Chris Abshire presented the financial report and stated that pledges were on target through April and nonpledge contributions are 60% of the annual budget to date. He continued by stating that contributions to the Malloy Center were \$5,150 through the end of April and John Warren mentioned that they total \$8,800 as of the date of the meeting. Chris reviewed several expense areas that are at or nearing budget and it was agreed to that a review of lawn service should be reviewed closer.

John Warren updated the Council on the leadership meeting that was led by Marilyn Wadkins, the VCI coach, in early May and several goals were identified. The goals were 1) create a program for young adults to begin in the Summer, 2) continue to move forward with the feeding ministry planned for this summer, 3) continue to focus on improvements in communication, 4) "In reach" and "outreach" programs to reach former members that are no longer active and to reach new groups of people, and 5) Lamar connections which will begin in the Fall. John indicated that a meeting would be scheduled to ensure progress is made in all of these areas to stay on target. John also mentioned that a speaker was being scheduled for the fall, Maria Dixon Hall, to address building relationships to bring about change. She will be meeting with Church members and with other community members.

John Warren updated the Council on work with Claybar Funeral Home to establish a Grief Group. This group will be formed to address many areas of grief including death, divorce and other life events that cause grief.

John Warren reminded the Council that ideas are needed for a fund raiser that is included as part of the budget. This will be included on the June agenda as time is of the essence for planning, etc.

Council discussed improvements that are necessary for communication between the congregation and Council. Upon motion by Barbara Dardeau and a second by Sherri Fruge', it was approved by unanimous vote that an email address, [council@fumcorange.org](mailto:council@fumcorange.org), would be formed and promoted to allow members to email the Council with questions and concerns.

The Council next met in closed session for SPR matters.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.